

## Guidelines for lesson 8

## Members of Two Communities

### AIMS OF LESSON 8

For each learner to:

- a. Want to serve both their birth community and their new community in Christ.
- b. Be willing to submit to those in authority, for the Lord's sake.
- c. Memorize 1 Peter 2:17.

### TO START THE MEETING

#### **START WITH PRAYER**

#### **LAST WEEK'S PRACTICAL TASK:**

- Say: "Lesson 7's Practical Task last week was to meet with at least one follower of Christ. Did you manage to do this? Did it give you spiritual strength?" *[Ask each person to respond.]*

#### **TODAY'S TOPIC:**

- Say: "Today we will discuss how we can belong to two communities at the same time, and try to serve both of them."

#### **ANSWERS TO THE LESSON REVIEW**

- Turn together to Lesson 8 Review and ask what the learner(s) wrote:  
*Question 1:* a) spiritual; b) earthly  
*Question 2:* submit  
*Question 3:* "Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers" (1 Peter 2:17)

### Cultural Clue: *BMBs and the Muslim Community*

Muslims who turn to Christ often feel torn between their old Muslim community and their new community in Christ. Family and community ties are very strong in Islam, and those who follow Christ often face hurtful rejection by those they love the most. How may they seek to mend those relationships over time? And will they find a new 'family' in Christ's community which is as close as the old one? These are pressing and painful questions for most BMBs. Lesson 8 teaches that Christ's followers belong to two communities, the old and the new, and that they should try to play their part in both so far as possible. (This is true of all first generation believers but the conflicts are often acute for those from Muslim background).


## A) MEMBERS OF TWO COMMUNITIES (Questions 1-4)

 **Read** 1 Peter 2:11-2.

 **Ask:**

- “Why does verse 11 call use ‘foreigners and exiles’ or in another translation ‘temporary residents’?” *[Because our true homeland is with Christ forever, as we learned in Question 1.]*
  - “While we are on this earth, non-Christians watch our behaviour closely. How should we live among them, according to verse 12?” *[Live such good lives that they recognise it even though they accuse of us of doing wrong.]*
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### Question 2

 **Read** the first paragraph.

 **Ask:**

- “In what two communities does God call us to serve him?” *[The spiritual community of Christ’s church, and the earthly community of the society in which we live.]*
  - “If someone says, ‘we don’t need to serve our earthly community, all that matters is our spiritual community’, what answer would you give?” *[Discuss together. According to 1 Peter chapter 2, God has called us to serve in both communities.]*
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### Questions 4-5


 **Read** question 4b.

 **Ask:**

- “What did you write here?” *[Discuss together.]*
  - “According to what you wrote in Question 5, what is the best way to ‘silence the ignorant talk of foolish people’?” *[By doing good.]*
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## B) DOING GOOD (Questions 5-9)

### Question 7


 **Read** the first paragraph.

 **Ask:**

- “Which answers did you tick here?” *[Discuss.]*
- “Can you think of any other ways we could ‘do good’ for our community and nation?” *[Discuss.]*

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## Question 8

 **Read** the second paragraph.

 **Ask:**

- “What ideas did you write here?” *[Discuss.]*
- “Out of all the ideas in questions 7 and 8, which ones can you put into practice?” *[Each learner should choose at least one action point which is relevant to their situation.]*

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## C) SUBMITTING TO OUR GOVERNMENT (Questions 10-13)


 **Read** 1 Peter 2:13-17.

 **Ask:**

- “In verse 13, what does God command us to do?” *[‘Submit to every human authority’]*
- “For whose sake should we submit?” *[‘For the Lord’s sake’, verse 13.]*
- “According to verse 16, does being free in Christ mean we can do whatever we like?” *[No, we are not free to do evil. We will learn more about this in Lesson 15.]*
- “We are given four commands in verse 17. How can we put them into practice in our own situation?” *[Discuss together.]*

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## Question 13

 **Read** the entire question.

 **Ask:**

- “What did you write for this question?” *[Discuss – personal answers.]*
- “If you work in a shop and your boss tells you to cheat the customers, what would you do? Respond in the light of what we have just learned from the apostle Peter’s example.” *[Discuss together. This is very hard because you don’t want to disobey God but you don’t want to lose your job either.]*

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## D) SUBMITTING TO OUR BOSS (Questions 14-20)

 **Read** 1 Peter 2:18.

 **Ask:**

- “To whom is this verse written?” *[To slaves.]*
- “In your opinion, what would be hard about working as a slave?” *[Discuss together. For example, you would have to work very hard but receive no pay and no freedom.]*

- “Should the slaves in verse 18 submit just to the ‘good and considerate’ masters or also to the ‘harsh’ ones?” [*Both to the good ones and the harsh ones.*]
  - “If we too have to work hard for an unfair boss, or people in our household never appreciate the work we do, what comfort and strength can we draw from 1 Peter 2? [*We submit for the Lord’s sake, verses 13 and 18.*]
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## Question 19

**Look** at the two men here.

**?** **Ask:**

- “Would you prefer your son to become an honest refuse collector or a dishonest lecturer?” [*That’s a hard question! Discuss together. What would the Lord want?*]
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## E) SUMMARY (Questions 21-22)

**?** **Ask:**

- “Who can recite 1 Peter 2:17 from memory?” [*Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers’. Note: this is just part of verse 17, to summarize the main teaching points of this lesson.*]
  - “In this verse, which words tell us to play our part in our earthly community?” [*Show proper respect to everyone’.*]
  - “Which words tell us to play our part in our spiritual community? [*Love the family of believers’.*]
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### TO FINISH THE MEETING

**ASK:**

- “What difference will today’s lesson make in your life?” [*Each person should share, including you as advisor.*]

**READ** the Lesson 8 Practical Task.

**SAY:**

- “Go back to points 7 and 8 and see if you can commit to doing one of these tasks this next week. Be prepared to share about your experience next week.” “Also, remember to do the home study for lesson 9.”

**CLOSE IN PRAYER** asking God to help us serve our earthly and spiritual communities, and to submit to those in authority, for Christ’s sake.